

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 5, 2008

The Honorable Michael W. Wynne
Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Wynne:

We understand that the Air Force will soon debrief the Boeing Company on their KC-X tanker program decision. As Members of the Connecticut Congressional delegation with significant interest in safeguarding the readiness, reliability and availability of our aerial refueling capabilities, we are writing to request a meeting for a detailed debriefing on the Air Force's contract decision as well.

In light of recent evidence that the Department of Defense made a mistake in choosing a foreign company for the VH-71 presidential helicopter program, concerns have been raised with the recent tanker contract award to Northrup Grumman Corporation and their partner, foreign-based European Aeronautic Defence & Space Corporation (EADS). We are concerned that the Air Force did not take into account factors beyond the RFP such as the creation of US jobs and the significant subsidies provided by European governments to its aerospace industry which put our domestic defense industry at a clear competitive disadvantage. We would like to know how the Air Force evaluated the risks of both proposals and came to the conclusion Northrup Grumman's aircraft is superior to Boeing, who has built most of the existing US tanker fleet and maintained it over several decades. Also, we are interested in learning more about the criteria outlined in the RFP and if the criteria changed during the decision making process.

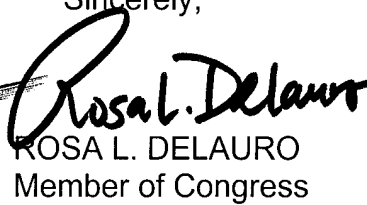
Among other things, we believe investing in foreign defense industries creates significant long-term national security risks and hampers our nation's ability to maintain a skilled workforce that is able to respond to our military's readiness needs during a time of war. As one of the largest contracts in the US military's history we must understand all of the Air Force's evaluation criteria and basis for its decision.

In the spirit of the Air Forces' dedication to an open, fair and detailed competition process, we appreciate your willingness to discuss the tanker project with us and we look forward to your debriefing on this important issue.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Member of Congress



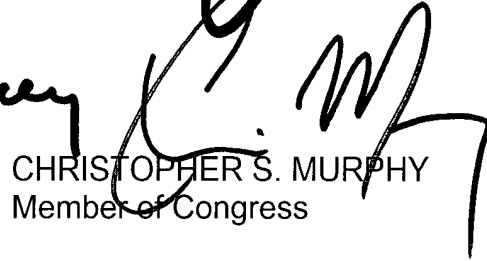
ROSA L. DELAURO
Member of Congress



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
Member of Congress

cc: General Duncan McNabb, U.S. Air Force Vice Chief of Staff
Lt. Gen. Donald Hoffman, Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition
Ms. Sue Payton, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition
Mr. John Young, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics